

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

### Listing of Claims:

1.     **(Currently Amended)** A container neck comprising:  
a finish terminating in an opening;  
a circumferential upper sidewall connected to said finish at an end opposite said opening;  
a lower sidewall below said upper sidewall; and  
a flange extending radially outward ~~from the neck~~ between said upper and said lower sidewalls, wherein the flange includes undulations on a top surface, the undulations extending radially outward from said upper sidewall.
2.     **(Original)** The container neck of claim 1, wherein said undulations comprise peaks and valleys.
3.     **(Original)** The container neck of claim 2, wherein said undulations are arcuate.
4.     **(Original)** The container neck of claim 3, wherein said undulations form an approximately sinusoidal wave at the point of connection with said upper sidewall.
5.     **(Original)** The container neck of claim 2, wherein said undulations have linear sides and a substantially triangular shape.
6.     **(Original)** The container neck of claim 1, further comprising threads disposed on an outer surface of said finish.
7.     **(Previously Presented)** The container neck of claim 1, wherein said flange comprises a ledge extending beyond an outer periphery of said undulations.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The container neck of claim 1, wherein the container is adapted for hot-fill processing.

9. **(Original)** The container neck of claim 2, comprising eight peaks.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A container comprising  
a neck portion comprising  
a finish terminating in an opening;  
a circumferential upper sidewall connected to said finish at an end opposite  
said opening;  
a lower sidewall below said upper sidewall; and  
a flange extending radially outward ~~from the neck~~ between said upper and said  
lower sidewalls, wherein the flange includes undulations on a top surface, the undulations extending  
radially outward from said upper sidewall;  
a transition region extending from the neck portion to a tubular container sidewall  
portion; and  
a base portion below said container sidewall portion.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 10, wherein said undulations are arcuate.

12. **(Original)** The container of claim 11, wherein said undulations form an approximately sinusoidal wave at the point of connection with said upper sidewall.

13. **(Original)** The container of claim 10, wherein said undulations are linear forming a triangular shape.

14. **(Original)** The container of claim 10, further comprising threads disposed on an outer surface of said finish.

15. **(Original)** The container of claim 10, wherein said undulations comprise peaks and valleys.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 10, wherein the container is adapted for hot fill processing.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 10, wherein said flange comprises a ledge extending beyond an outer periphery of said undulations.

18. **(Original)** The container of claim 15, comprising eight peaks.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 10, said container sidewall portion comprising four substantially planar panels wherein opposite planar panels are substantially parallel.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 19, wherein the container sidewall portion comprises an inset between two adjacent planar panels.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 19, wherein said container sidewall portion comprises an arcuate panel connecting two adjacent planar panels.

22. **(Original)** The container of claim 21, further comprising an inset in the arcuate panel between two adjacent panels.

23. **(Original)** The container of claim 22, comprising two insets in arcuate panels that are diagonally disposed from one another.

24. **(Original)** The container of claim 10, said container sidewall comprising an upper bumper and a lower bumper and an inset region between said upper bumper and said lower bumper.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A container comprising:  
a neck portion comprising  
a finish terminating in an opening;  
a circumferential upper sidewall connected to said finish;  
a lower sidewall below said upper sidewall; and  
a flange extending radially outward ~~from the neck~~ between said upper and said lower sidewalls, wherein the flange includes undulations on a top surface, the undulations extending radially outward from said upper sidewall;  
a transition region extending from the neck portion to a tubular container sidewall portion, said container sidewall portion comprising  
four substantially planar panels wherein opposite planar panels are substantially parallel; and  
an inset between two adjacent planar panels; and  
a base portion below said container sidewall portion.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 25, wherein said container sidewall portion comprises an arcuate panel connecting two adjacent planar panels.

27. **(Original)** The container of claim 25, wherein said inset is in the arcuate panel between two adjacent panels.

28. **(Original)** The container of claim 25, comprising two insets in arcuate panels that are diagonally disposed from one another.

29. **(New)** The container neck of claim 1, wherein the flange is a hollow annular

flange.

30.    *(New)* The container of claim 10, wherein the flange is a hollow annular flange.
31.    *(New)* The container of claim 25, wherein the flange is a hollow annular flange.